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Item 91 (w) of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament

Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/63/50.



I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 62/43, on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, the General Assembly invited all Member States to submit to the Secretary-General concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

2. On 25 February 2008, a note verbale was sent to all Member States drawing their attention to paragraph 2 of resolution 62/43 and seeking relevant information on the issues outlined above. The replies received from Chile, Cuba, Qatar and Ukraine are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Chile

[Original: Spanish]

[14 May 2008]

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/43 entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities" adopted on 5 December 2007, the Government of Chile proposes the following actions and measures to increase transparency and confidence:

(a) States should conclude a single, comprehensive and updated treaty that encompasses all space legislation. The existing Outer Space Treaty dates back to 1967 and thus needs to be revised to update the legal components and reflect technological advances.

(b) Specific regulations pertaining to space debris should be elaborated; these should reflect the obligations of States with respect to such debris and should cover possible damage to persons, property and other activities as well as the safety of spacecraft during scheduled re-entry. In that connection, States should be encouraged to ensure prompt, effective implementation of the legal mechanisms governing the exploitation and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes. Outer space activities continue to increase and the growing number of outer space objects in orbit presents new challenges.

(c) It is also important to continue improving the international legal regime regulating outer space. Although the voluntary guidelines for the mitigation of space debris called for in General Assembly resolution 62/217 (paragraph 27) are welcome, States need to establish an international legal order that is more complete, effective and preventive; set effective guidelines that can be applied in emergencies; ensure access to timely, accurate information concerning re-entry of debris; and facilitate due coordination among the most affected countries.

(d) A clear distinction should be made between military use, militarization and the arms race in outer space. Military use is governed by customary practice; this includes, for example, monitoring the compliance of disarmament treaties.

Militarization and the arms race in outer space, on the other hand, are prohibited by legal principles.

(e) The principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, which were approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/64 (1986), should be updated. The existing principles have been superseded over time; they also place restrictions on the access of developing countries to space-based information, which could impede natural disaster management. States should firmly support the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), which has been endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

(f) The initiative Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) should be renewed without delay, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

(g) States should seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice concerning the application and scope of the principle of the non-use of force in outer space.

(h) States are urged to implement General Assembly resolution 62/20 (2007) on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which reiterates the need to consolidate and reinforce the legal regime applicable to outer space, since the current regime does not in and of itself guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The existing regime does not ban anti-satellite arms, which makes it difficult to establish a more comprehensive confidence-building mechanism. The development of weapons in outer space needs to be reviewed.

(i) At the regional level, the International Group of Experts and the respective pro tempore secretariats of the Space Conferences of the Americas should issue statements promoting increased transparency and confidence-building.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[15 June 2008]

1. Beginning in the 1960s, the international community adopted a series of legal instruments on outer space including the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (1963), the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1967) and the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1979). These instruments have played a constructive part in the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space and the regulation of outer space activities. They have also been of significance in relation to the ban on the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and certain military activities in outer space.

2. The majority of countries recognize that the arms race represents a grave threat to international peace and security; the prevention of an arms race in outer space has therefore long been a universal goal. Unfortunately, current developments prove that the existing treaties and agreements have failed to eliminate the dangers of the

militarization of outer space and that they are insufficient to prevent the deployment of weapons in the cosmos.

3. The existing multilateral machinery dealing with disarmament and arms control has the important responsibility of prevailing on the will of the international community in this regard. Cuba supports the efforts under way in the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament, especially the negotiation in the Conference of an international legal instrument on banning the deployment of weapons in outer space, and to this end it supports the establishment of a special or ad hoc committee to initiate negotiations.

4. Cuba shares the view both of countries that consider that the need to negotiate a new legal instrument arises because the existing treaties do not effectively prevent the testing, deployment and use of weapons, with the exception of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, especially in orbit around the Earth, on celestial bodies other than the Moon and in outer space, and of countries that maintain that none of these legal instruments is relevant to the question of the use or threat of force against objects in outer space.

5. At the 2008 Conference on Disarmament, the Governments of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China officially presented a draft proposal for a treaty on banning outer space weapons. The draft proposal, which is gaining support from a number of countries, bans not only the development of outer space weapons but also the use of force against satellites and other space objects. In Cuba's view, the proposed treaty is a concrete measure that will help to maintain international peace and security in activities relating to outer space — activities which cannot be conducted without the support of the international community.

6. Regrettably, a significant number of the objects currently launched in outer space are not designed to solve any of the important challenges confronting mankind, let alone contribute to development. On the contrary, they were launched for military or espionage purposes and will ultimately increase the amount of space debris, the mitigation of which has become a major challenge.

7. In 2008, there was another incident where an uncontrollable space object had to be destroyed as it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere. The object, which was owned and destroyed by the Government of the United States, carried 453 kilograms of hydrazine.¹ Cuba shares the concern of other States that the incident was a pretext to test anti-satellite systems or other weapons against space objects.

8. The international community is also concerned about the use of nuclear energy sources in outer space. Although only a few highly developed countries are currently exploring this field, it will eventually have an impact on all countries. Cuba considers that the use of nuclear energy sources should be restricted to the extent possible, until there is a clearly defined security framework and more concrete agreements have been initiated. Even in cases of limited use, the State in question should provide other States with comprehensive, transparent information on its activities, including the measures taken to ensure safe use.

¹ Hydrazine, which is often used to fuel spacecraft, is highly toxic and harmful to both humans and the environment.

9. Cuba remains convinced that, at present, there is no reason to consider using nuclear energy sources in Earth orbit, where the risks are considerably higher. Other efficient and much safer energy sources are available.

10. At the Fourteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, political leaders expressed their concern about the adverse consequences of the development and deployment of antiballistic-missile defence systems and the quest for advanced military technology capable of deployment in outer space, which had the potential to unleash an arms race and the subsequent development of advanced missile systems together with an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

11. Cuba considers that General Assembly resolution 62/43 contributes significantly to the aforementioned efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space.

12. Although transparency and confidence-building are not a substitute for arms control and disarmament measures or a prerequisite for the application of such measures, they nevertheless can facilitate the achievement of disarmament commitments and measures for their verification. Confidence-building requires goodwill on the part of States, which must themselves decide if they will embark on confidence-building, what concrete measures they will adopt and how they will put them into practice.

13. The formulation of recommendations on possible confidence-building measures would in itself be conducive to a better understanding of States' intentions and the current and future situation in outer space. In this sense, the joint work on the preparation of transparency and confidence-building measures would itself promote mutual trust.

14. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities could include:

- The convening of an international conference to analyse strict compliance with existing agreements on the peaceful uses of outer space;
- Review of the current legal regime regulating outer space activities in the light of technological advances, which has been continually blocked by certain States on the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- The adoption of multilateral agreements for the exchange of information on the use of outer space;
- The development of international cooperation mechanisms which guarantee to all countries equal access to the benefits of the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes;
- Exchange of information on the major trends of the space policies of States, the principal programmes dealing with outer space research and utilization and the orbital parameters of space objects;
- Extending invitations to observers to attend the launching of space objects on a voluntary basis;
- Demonstration of space and rocket technologies;

- Issuing notifications about scheduled launchings of spacecraft, scheduled space manoeuvres that can result in dangerous proximity to spacecraft of other States, and the re-entry of guided spacecraft from orbit into the atmosphere;
- Consultations to clarify the information provided on outer space research and utilization programmes, on ambiguous situations and on other matters which are cause for concern; and to discuss the application of transparency and confidence-building measures agreed on in space activities.

15. Transparency and confidence-building measures can play an important part in the drafting, adoption and implementation of a new treaty banning the deployment of weapons in outer space and the use or threat of use of force against spatial objects. They would also help to create conditions conducive to the conclusion of a new agreement. The preparation of recommendations on possible transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space constitutes a relatively simple first step towards strengthening security.

Qatar

[Original: English]
[17 June 2008]

The State of Qatar supports the prevention of the armament of outer space and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In this regard, the State of Qatar is of the view that it is beneficial to convene a meeting at the expert level to establish a credible and reliable verification mechanism. At the same time, countries that use outer space must submit, subject to verification, reports with details regarding what they control in outer space, given the existence of a convention, which entered into force in 1967, to make outer space, including orbits around the Earth, the Moon and other celestial bodies, free of weapons of mass destruction. The Convention banned tests of weapons of any kind, military manoeuvres and the construction of military bases and facilities in outer space.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[3 June 2008]

1. Ukraine believes that States should strictly comply with the provisions of international agreements to which they are parties, namely:

- The basic United Nations treaties on outer space (particularly taking account of the provisions of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, of 27 January 1967; and article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, of 14 January 1975);
- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, of 24 September 1996;
- The Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, of 5 August 1963.

2. Ukraine welcomes and supports the work of the multilateral non-proliferation regimes (the Missile Technology Control Regime, Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee, the Australia Group, and the Wassenaar Arrangement) and considers that the member States of these regimes must adhere to the provisions of their governing instruments in order to ensure transparency and increase confidence.
 3. Ukraine proposes that the information from the annual declarations providing an outline of the policies of the States subscribing to the Hague Code of Conduct with respect to ballistic missile programmes and space launch vehicle programmes be used in order to draw up an annual generalized report to the Secretary-General.
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Item 67 (a) of the preliminary list*

Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Note by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. Following a recommendation made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the grant cycle of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery has been changed.
2. The thirteenth session of the Board of Trustees will be held in September 2008, and the outcomes will be reported to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, to be held in 2009.

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Item 96 of the preliminary list*

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/63/50.



I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/58, commended the Mediterranean countries for their efforts in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, encouraged them to strengthen such efforts through, inter alia, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region, and recognized the role of the United Nations in promoting regional and international peace and security.

2. The Assembly also recognized that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area, will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums.

3. The Assembly called upon all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region.

4. It also encouraged all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

5. The Assembly encouraged the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating international crime and illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region, and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation, and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society.

6. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

7. In this connection, a note verbale dated 19 February 2008 was sent to all Member States requesting their views on the subject. To date, the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Poland, Qatar and Ukraine have replied, and their responses are contained in section II below. Any replies received subsequently will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]

[12 May 2008]

In the western Balkan region, significant progress has been made in fighting organized crime, especially in the detection and processing of criminal offences relating to illegal migrations and the smuggling of persons through the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. That level of efficiency in the area could not be reached without unselfish international cooperation between police agencies and authorities of the countries in the region, based on mutual confidence, professionalism and determination to suppress this form of crime. The measures taken and the results achieved in this field become more important, bearing in mind that organized smuggling of persons in EU countries represents, in fact, a base for development of other forms of organized crime, first of all illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs.

Successful police measures have prevented the activities of criminal groups at the international level. Also, the proceedings for confiscation of profit gained through criminal activities have been initiated, which, in addition to affirming international police cooperation, represents a key step in fighting international organized crime and its consequences.

Netherlands

[Original: English]

[11 June 2008]

The Netherlands, like other European Union member States, believes that European security is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean region. The Netherlands is pleased with Libya's decision to eliminate all material, equipment and programmes connected to the production of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Another important issue for the Mediterranean region is the trafficking in and smuggling of human beings. This issue needs to be combated through political dialogue and cooperation between criminal justice authorities.

Together with the EU, the Netherlands calls on all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to accede to all multilaterally negotiated, legally binding instruments related to disarmament and non-proliferation, in order to strengthen peace and cooperation in the region.

Poland

[Original: English]
[27 May 2008]

1. Poland is strongly committed to peace, security and stability in the Mediterranean region. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership remains a guiding framework for dialogue and cooperation in this field.
2. Participating in the Barcelona Process, Poland has been involved in the implementation of the five-year work programme adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Summit in 2005. In the Lisbon conclusions of November 2007 the EuroMed Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their determination to eradicate all forms of terrorism and agreed that the EuroMed ad hoc meetings on terrorism should be oriented more towards the practical implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism.
3. In spite of the continuing conflict in the Middle East, the EuroMed partners have succeeded in maintaining a political dialogue aimed at creating a peaceful, stable and secure Euro-Mediterranean region. Poland acknowledges the political involvement of the EU in the settlement of the Middle East conflict within the Quartet, as well as its wide support to the Palestinian Authority.
4. Poland recognizes the importance of promoting dialogue between cultures. We support the activities of the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures aimed at shaping the Euro-Mediterranean region as an area of cooperation, exchange, mobility, mutual understanding and peace.
5. Poland welcomes the progress in the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) with regard to the Mediterranean countries, which contributes to reinforcing the Barcelona Process.
6. Polish representatives have been actively involved in the parliamentary dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership; the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly held its most recent plenary session in March 2008, covering the major issues of importance for the region, such as political dialogue and countering terrorism.

Qatar

[Original: English]

[13 May 2008]

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar has the honour to provide below, as per the request of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the views of the Government of the State of Qatar on the issues outlined in General Assembly resolution 62/58:

- The State of Qatar supports the transformation of the Mediterranean region into a region for dialogue and exchange and cooperation processes. It maintains excellent relations with the countries of the region, while the countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean region share with the State of Qatar membership in the League of Arab States.
- The State of Qatar respects all cultures in the Mediterranean region, believes in promoting mutual understanding among those cultures and hopes to strengthen the existing relevant forums.
- The State of Qatar calls upon all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The State of Qatar will not hesitate to contribute to the creation of the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region.
- The State of Qatar, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions, provides information on the measures it has taken on the national level concerning specific matters in the field of disarmament and confidence-building, including:
 - Illegal trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,
 - The implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,
 - Other related matters.
- The State of Qatar cooperates with all States in the field of counter-terrorism and drug control.
- The State of Qatar believes that a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian question would contribute to improving the circumstances in the Mediterranean region, and generally in the Middle East, in all aspects.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]

[8 May 2008]

Information on the implementation by Ukraine of resolution 62/58 on strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Ukraine joined Operation Active Endeavour, the NATO anti-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean Sea, having signed the corresponding Agreement (through an exchange of letters) on 21 April 2005 at a meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Commission at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Vilnius, the Republic of Lithuania. The Agreement was put into effect by Decree No. 71/2006 of the President of Ukraine of 26 January 2006.

The operation's objective is to combat terrorism by preventing illicit shipments of weapons and ammunition by sea and to counter the illegal movement of persons and other illegal activities with the use of civilian vessels.



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Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/63/150.



I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 62/17, the General Assembly invited all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

- (a) General appreciation of the issues of information security;
 - (b) Efforts taken at the national level to strengthen information security and promote international cooperation in this field;
 - (c) The content of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;
 - (d) Possible measures that could be taken by the international community to strengthen information security at the global level.
2. Pursuant to that request, on 15 February 2008, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

China

[Original: Chinese]
[15 May 2008]

1. The rapid development and broad application of information and communication technology have greatly enhanced the development and wealth of human society. At the same time, as the world becomes more computerized, the misuse of the products of that computerization presents real threats to the security and stability of individual countries and of the international community as a whole. Such threats include developing and using information weapons, information crime, information terrorism, using leadership in the information field to damage the interests and security of other countries, and disseminating information that undermines the political, economic and social systems and the spiritual cultural environment of other countries. The international community should strengthen its cooperation and jointly respond to these challenges.
2. The Chinese Government has consistently attached a high degree of importance to the issue of information security, and has drafted a series of laws, regulations and standards to protect information security and strictly prohibit all types of criminal network attacks and information systems disruption. In recent years, the Chinese Government has increased its investment in this area and has done a great deal of work on information security, system monitoring and building emergency-response systems; its ability to protect the security of information continues to strengthen as a result.
3. China actively participates in international cooperation in the field of information security. In combating network crime, China's public-security agencies have established close cooperation and investigation-assistance mechanisms with

the police authorities of many countries. China is taking an active role in the work of the international information-security expert group of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and working with the other member States of the Organization to find effective ways and means to resolve problems concerning international information security.

4. China holds that the United Nations is the appropriate setting in which to explore the issue of information security, and supports the reconvening by the United Nations in 2009 of a governmental experts group to integrate, on the basis of the work done by the previous governmental experts group in 2004-2005, new developments in information and communications technology and carry out a deep and comprehensive study of the threats and challenges in the field of information security along with effective programmes and policies to address them.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

[11 June 2008]

1. Cuba reiterates that the hostile use of telecommunications, with the declared or hidden intent of undermining the legal and political order of States, is a violation of the internationally recognized norms in this area and a negative and irresponsible use of these means, which can give rise to tensions and situations that are not conducive to international peace and security and thereby undermine the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

2. Cuba wishes to underscore the legitimate and prevalent concern of the international community, expressed in General Assembly resolution 62/17 that information and telecommunication technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields.

3. The Government of the United States of America maintains an undeclared war against Cuba that encompasses the information and telecommunications sector, violating the pertinent international norms and laws. It does not consider the damage that it could cause to international peace and security by creating dangerous situations, such as the use of a military aircraft to transmit television signals towards Cuba without its consent. This attitude is inappropriate for a permanent member of the Security Council, which is supposed to assume the fundamental responsibility of maintaining international peace and security on behalf of the other members of the United Nations.

4. The weekly transmissions from United States territory have exceeded 2,300 hours in recent years, using different services and frequency bands. These radioelectric attacks against Cuba violate the principles of international law that govern relations between States and the norms and regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which determine the conduct that the member countries of this specialized agency of the United Nations system should follow. At the end of March 2008, a total of 1,889 hours and 15 minutes of illegal weekly transmissions towards Cuban territory from 19 stations using 30 frequencies were recorded.

5. The World Radiocommunications Conference, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 October to 16 November 2007, took a position against the illegal transmissions towards Cuba from an aircraft and indicated that they were not in compliance with the Radio Regulations. Textually, the Conference stated in its conclusions on the case: "a broadcasting station operating on board an aircraft and transmitting solely to the territory of another administration without its agreement cannot be considered in conformity with the Radio Regulations".

6. From the United States territory and with the entire consent of the United States Government, short-wave programmes are transmitted towards Cuba which encourage acts of sabotage, political attacks, the assassination of important people and acts of resistance and deal with other subjects typical of radio terrorism, underscoring the falseness of the declarations by President Bush's Administration regarding its alleged commitment to fighting terrorism.

7. No country has the right to transmit television broadcasts towards another, whether or not such broadcasts adversely affect the other country's services. Cuba has never interfered with the United States television services, let alone used aerostats and aircraft for this purpose.

8. The United States Government's pathological hostility towards Cuba also extends to the Internet. With total cynicism and hypocrisy, it has falsely accused Cuba of preventing its citizens from accessing the global network, while the very different reality is that Cuba is unable to connect to the fibre-optic cables that surround the Cuban archipelago, owing to the embargo laws applied by the United States for nearly 50 years. In addition, without prior notification, the Office of Foreign Assets Control recently blocked .com domains relating to Cuba. This attitude erodes the spirit, the intentions, and the conclusions that prevailed among the nations of the entire world when they met in Switzerland and Tunisia during the World Summit on the Information Society.

9. The World Summit on the Information Society strongly urged States, when building the information society, to take the necessary measures to avoid and refrain from adopting unilateral measures that were not in keeping with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, prevented the full achievement of the economic and social development of the population of the countries affected or adversely affected the well-being of their citizens.

10. The discussion in the General Assembly about developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security is very pertinent and its timeliness and importance increase every day. Actions such as those described above by the United States of America against Cuba confirm the need for that debate and the urgency of finding solutions that overcome those obstacles to harmony in international relations among States.

11. Cuba strongly supports this exercise by the General Assembly and, consequently, joined the 179 Member States that voted in favour of resolution 62/17, in contrast to the attitude of the United States of America, the only country that voted against it.

12. Cuba will continue to spare no effort in offering its support to the peaceful global development of information and telecommunications technologies and their use for the good of all humanity, and is ready to collaborate with all other countries, including the United States of America, to find solutions that overcome the obstacles that prevent the achievement of these goals.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[16 May 2008]

First: General appraisal of information security issues

Information security is related to the concept of national security and the information security system has a direct connection with telecommunications security, given that it is through wired or wireless networks that information is transmitted. In order to protect and strengthen the security of information and communications the following are required:

- The introduction of regulations, laws and systems to protect the confidentiality, integrity and provision of information and prevent the exploitation of information systems for the commission of crimes;
- The establishment of a strategy for information security, namely, a set of rules that are applied by persons working with the technology and information within the institute. The objectives of the strategy are to familiarize users and administrators with their obligation to protect computer systems and networks as well as to protect data at the stages of input, processing, storage, transfer and retrieval.

Second: Efforts made at the national level

On 20 February 2007 the Government of Jordan established a national technical commission for the security and protection of information, composed of experts from various Government ministries and institutions. The commission's duties have been defined as follows:

- To identify the security, technical, legal and administrative aspects of security and protection of information, information resources and electronic services in Jordan;
- To ensure that the Government's electronic security programmes and projects are in line with security standards in other relevant authorities.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[29 April 2008]

1. At the national level, the concerned Lebanese authorities, especially the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities-General Security, are modernizing the information security systems for the internal network and received, in this regard, support from experienced security bodies in friendly countries. However, the necessary and modern equipment is not yet available because of insufficient funding and technological capability.

2. Other concerned Lebanese authorities, mainly the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities-Internal Security, established a Bureau to Combat Information Crimes and to Protect the Intellectual Property Rights. This Bureau is already functioning.

technologies, which has the support of the African Economic Community. The project led to the preparation of three sets of draft guidelines on electronic commerce, protection of personal data and cybercrime, which will be transmitted shortly to the Conference of Heads of State and Government for adoption.

III. Follow-up at the international level

5. The Office of the High Commissioner for Information and Communication Technologies is either participating in or closely following international projects on the issue.

To this end, the Office of the High Commissioner actively took part in the West Africa Workshop on Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Cybersecurity and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection, held in Praia, Cape Verde, from 27 to 29 November 2007. The workshop took place in the context of consultations between the various regions and member countries of the International Telecommunication Union, with a view to implementing the Global Cybersecurity Agenda.

6. In addition, the Office of the High Commissioner also closely followed the work of the Global Forum on Internet Governance and the cybersecurity summit, held in Strasbourg on 1 and 2 April 2008 by the Council of Europe, to strengthen international cooperation between police and legal authorities and Internet service providers.

IV. Activities

7. Lastly, the Office of the High Commissioner for Information and Communication Technologies participates in the work of broadcasting television and radio programmes aimed at raising awareness of the various aspects of cybercrime and information network security in general. It even held a one-day parliamentary briefing on the subject to assist national deputies on 2 May 2008.

8. At the technical level, the Office of the High Commissioner has prepared a draft policy on information security to be implemented by information technology departments and services in government agencies once it has been approved.

9. In conjunction with civil society institutions, the Office of the High Commissioner also periodically organizes information network administration and security training programmes for government personnel and telecommunications operators.

10. A detailed technical note, the terms of reference of the National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plan focal-point training workshop, the e-Government sectoral strategy, and the draft policy on information system security have been attached for reference.

11. A document on the harmonization of the legal framework for information and communication technologies in West African States (WAEMU-ECOWAS) and the general report on the project on the legal framework for information and communication technologies are available and will be provided to the United Nations as needed.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]

[7 April 2008]

1. The rapid development and widespread use of information technology (IT) are currently playing a positive part in stimulating economic and social development and improving people's lives around the world. At the same time, data security significantly affects the public security of States and, indeed, the security and stability of the world as a whole. Because all States stand to benefit from it, data security is the shared responsibility of the international community.
2. Qatar believes that the issue of data security involves more than the risks created by the weakness and interwoven nature of information infrastructure. Political, economic, military and social issues are also at stake, not to mention other problems stemming from IT misuse. Each of those issues is relevant to data security analysis.
3. Qatar is convinced that IT should be used in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of international relations. It believes that the free flow of information should be ensured while national sovereignty and security are preserved and historical, cultural and political differences between States are respected. Each State should have the right to manage its own Internet resources in accordance with domestic legislation. In view of the imbalance in technological development between States, Qatar also believes that the international community should support cooperation in respect of IT research and applications, and genuinely affirm IT autonomy for all States.
4. Qatar attaches great importance to IT and is working to implement a national information strategy, having prepared the necessary regulatory legislation. It has made great efforts in support of an Internet security monitoring system. Increasing support is also being provided for basic data protection capacity and crucial information systems.
5. Qatar is convinced that the United Nations constitutes the appropriate forum for consideration of data security issues. It supports the reconvening in 2009 of the Group of Governmental Experts, which will permit an in-depth, comprehensive analysis of the risks and challenges involving data security to be carried out, alongside the formulation of appropriate programmes and policies. As it has done in the past, Qatar will continue to support international efforts to address data security issues.